

MINUTES
OF THE
FIFTIETH SYNOD
OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
MINISTERIUM
OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK,
AND ADJACENT STATES.

Held in the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Albany, under the pastoral charge of
the Rev. H. N. Pohlman, D. D., Sept. 6—10, 1845.

Baltimore:

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SATURDAY, September 6th, 1845.

PURSUANT to Resolution XXVIII. of the forty-ninth Synod, the members of the Ministerium, and lay-delegates, met in Albany, N. Y., in the church under the pastoral care of the Rev. H. N. Pohlman, D. D.

SUNDAY, September 7th, 1845.

The semi-centennial anniversary of this body was celebrated under the direction of the committee of arrangements. The following was the order of exercises:

MORNING.

1. Voluntary on the Organ.
2. The minister rises and says, "O come let us sing unto the Lord, let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation." The congregation will then rise and remain standing during the singing of an anthem by the choir.
3. Confession.

4. Hymn.

*Paths where our Fathers Trod.**

Paths! where our fathers trod
Shrines! where they worshipped God
Echo our song!

Wake, as in other days,
When the responsive lays
Of their triumphal praise,
Floated along.

They sung of toil and strife,
Of victory and life,
Life evermore.

On by Jehovah led,
Darkness before them fled,
And Zion's empire spread,
On our blest shore.

Here on th' Eternal Rock,
Truth stood, safe from each shock
Against her hurl'd;
And from the beacon-tower,
Reared in that storm-girt hour,
Pours, with reflected power,
Light o'er the world.

Now in a scene where love
Broods like a peaceful dove,
Our pilgrim train,
'Neath that same heaven-lit ray,
Meet on our upward way,
Blessing in heart-felt lay
God's glorious reign.

Bend from thy throne, Most High,
Pass in thy glory by
This hallowed hour;
Challenge this waiting band!
Pledged for thy cause to stand,
Onward! with heart and hand,
Nerved by thy power.

Then where our fathers trod—
Then, where we worship God,
Will the glad strain
Wake, till these earthly lays
Cease; and our songs of praise
On through eternal days
Echo again.

5. Reading of Scripture.

6. Prayer.

7. Hymn.

O God, let not our Prayer in vain.†

O God, let not our prayer in vain
Ascend to Zion's holy hill!
Like Hermon's dews, like Carmel's rain
Command thy blessing to distill.

For half an age, thy smile divine,
A bow of promise, o'er us shone;

Still cause thy face on us to shine,
Still send us showers from thy throne.

Our fathers who before us trod
The path of toil, are now at rest;
But thou, our God, our fathers' God,
Wilt own their children's labors blest.

8. Sermon by Rev. P. F. Mayer—text, Deut. viii. 2. "Thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee."

9. Prayer.

10. Voluntary and Collection.

11. Hymn.

Doxology.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him all creatures here below,
Praise him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

12. Benediction

*Composed for the occasion by a female member of the church at New Germantown, N. J.

†Composed for the occasion by one of our ministers.

AFTERNOON.

1. Hymn 182. *O Zion, tune thy Voice.*2. Hymn. *Accept, O God, the Sacrifice.**

Accept, O God, the sacrifice
Of grateful homage which we bring;
Like Aaron's incense let it rise,
Borne upward on faith's loftiest wing.

The *past*! how rich a scene of grace!
Thine arm our stay, thy truth our light;
Thy mercy seat our hiding place,
And hope our polar star by night.

No tempest cloud shall overwhelm,
No treacherous shoals our bark destroy;
The *Pilot's* hand is on the helm,
His grace keeps watch upon the sky.

Make us, "thou strong and mighty Tower,
Our shield and weapon," staff and rod,
Victorious o'er each hostile power,
Through Luther's faith in Luther's God.

3. Sermon by Rev. G. B. Miller, D. D.,—text, 1 Cor. xii. 3—7.

4. Hymn. *Thou who from of Old hast spoken.**

Thou who from of old hast spoken
Good concerning Israel;
Thou whose word was never broken,
And whose promise ne'er shall fail;
Let our song of praise before thee
Like a holy incense rise;
All thy ways are grace and glory,
All thy counsels just and wise.

Sown in weakness, raised in power,
Born in tears, baptized in blood,
Cradled in the tempest shower,
Zion speaks thy truth, O God!
Year by year thy grace has shielded,
Guided, strengthened, prospered, Lord,
And thy holy truth hath wielded
Mightily her conquering sword.

But, where are the honored reapers
In whose footsteps we now tread?
Numbered with the silent sleepers
In the mansions of the dead:
Finished all their toil amid us,
They have entered into rest,
And their ransomed spirits bid us
Toil like them—like them be blest.

*Composed for the occasion by one of our ministers.

In the evening, Rev. C. A. Smith, preached from 1 Cor. iii. 11—15.

The Secretary preached, at the same hour, in "the Mission church."

Rev. R. Collier, preached at Sandlake, morning and evening.

In the German church, (Rev. E. Meyer, pastor,) Rev. W. A. Fetter, preached on Saturday evening; Rev. P. H. Dennler, on Sabbath morning; Rev. Dr. Wackerhagen, in the afternoon; Rev. A. Wetzel, in the evening; and Rev. F. W. Schmidt, on Monday evening.

FIRST SESSION.

MONDAY, September 8th, 1845.

At 9 o'clock, the Synod assembled in the church for the transaction of business. The brethren united in singing; and prayer was offered by the President.

The Secretary called the roll and Synod was found to be constituted of the following members:

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

1	REV. H. N. POHLMAN, <i>President</i> ,	Albany, N. Y.
2	" J. C. DUY, <i>Secretary</i> ,	Saddle River, N. J.
3	" N. W. GOERTNER, <i>Treas'r</i> ,	Red Hook, N. Y.
4	" P. F. MAYER, D. D.,	Philadelphia.
5	" A. WACKERHAGEN, D. D.,	Clermont, N. Y.
6	" F. H. GUENTHER,	Buffalo, N. Y.
7	" W. D. STROBEL, D. D.,	Valatie, N. Y.
8	" C. A. SMITH,	Rhinebeck, N. Y.
9	" R. COLLIER,	New Hampton, N. J.
10	" W. A. FETTER,	Lancaster, N. Y.
11	" G. B. MILLER, D. D.,	Hartwick Seminary.
12	" A. WETZEL,	New London, N. Y.
13	" C. MARTIN,	New York city.
14	" W. F. VEIL,*	Buffalo, N. Y.
15	" P. H. DENNLER,	Lyons, N. Y.
16	" GEORGE SAUL,†	
17	" GEORGE NEFF,	Philadelphia.
18	" F. W. SCHMIDT,	West Leyden, N. Y.
19	" C. F. E. STOHLMAN,	New York city.
20	" G. J. KEMPE,*	Boston, Mass.
21	" J. EISENLORD,	Fort Plain, N. Y.
22	" E. MEYER,	Albany, N. Y.
23	" H. WHEELER,	Churchtown, N. Y.
24	" F. G. MASCHHOP,	Newark, N. J.

*Absent and excused.

†Absent but not excused.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

25	REV. J. R. KEISER,	New Germantown, N. J.
26	" E. DEYOE,	Ghent, N. Y.
27	" C. F. W. RICHENBERG,	Syracuse, N. Y.
28	" J. W. STARMAN,*	Waldoboro', Me.
29	" H. HAYUNGA,*	Upper Canada.
30	" W. SHARTS,*	Williamsburg, U. C.
31	" L. MULLER,	New York city.
32	" J. MULHAUSER,*	Rochester, N. Y.
33	" J. RUGAN, (licentiate, admitted this session,)	Philadelphia.

LAY-DELEGATES.

1	MR. J. B. GARLING,	Albany, N. Y.
2	" J. ACHENBACK,	Saddle River, N. J.
3	" F. COTTING,	Red Hook, N. Y.
4	" H. WAGNER,	Clermont, N. Y.
5	" B. SCHULTZ,	Valatie, N. Y.
6	" P. F. MOORE,	Rhinebeck, N. Y.
7	" R. WILLIAMS,	St. James', N. Y.
8	" MADS GRAAH,	Newark, N. J.
9	" C. MILLER,	Churchtown, N. Y.
10	" J. HARDER,	Ghent, N. Y.
11	" J. SMITH, Esq.,	New Germantown, N. J.

ADMITTED TO SEATS AS ADVISORY MEMBERS.

1	REV. J. Z. SENDERLING,	Delegate from the Hartwick Synod.
2	" MR. RALLY,	do do Pennsylvania Synod.
3	" T. LAPE,	Of the Hartwick Synod.
4	" G. W. LEWIS,	do do do
5	" R. DEDERICK,	do do do
6	" L. DEDERICK,	do do do
7	" Prof. H. I. SMITH,	do do do
8	" A. CROWNSE,	do do do
9	" L. STERNBERG,	do do do
10	" MR. PEPPER,	do Reformed Dutch Church.
11	" MR. FISHER,	do N. S. Presbyterian Church.

The President then read his report, which was accepted and laid on the table. (See appendix A.)

Mr. Rugan, and Mr. Waltermire, students of Theology, were introduced to Synod by Rev. Dr. Miller.

After making a few corrections in the minutes of last year, it was
I. *Resolved*, That the reading of the minutes of last year be dispensed with.

The Secretary presented a bound volume of minutes as a gift from the Publication Rooms, Baltimore.

*Absent and excused.

The minutes of the following Synods were laid upon the table, viz.: 1. Pennsylvania Synod. 2. East Pennsylvania Synod. 3. Synod of Maryland. 4. Synod of Virginia. 5. Synod of North Carolina. 6. Synod of South Carolina. 7. Synod of Miami. 8. Hartwick Synod. 9. Synod of the West.

II. *Resolved*, That a committee of seven be appointed to examine and report on the minutes of sister Synods.

Committee.—Rev. Messrs. J. R. Keiser, C. F. E. Stohlman, C. Martin, A. Wetzel, F. H. Guenther, and Messrs. Schultz and Smith.

The brethren now read their parochial reports. (See the following table:)

ADMITTED TO SEATS AS ADULT MEMBERS

1	"	MR. FISHER,	do	N. S. Presbyterian Church.
2	"	MR. PEPPER,	do	Reformed Dutch Church.
3	"	J. STERNBERG,	do	do
4	"	A. CROWNS,	do	do
5	"	FRED H. I. SMITH,	do	do
6	"	L. DEDEBICK,	do	do
7	"	R. DEDEBICK,	do	do
8	"	G. W. LEWIS,	do	do
9	"	T. LAPEL,	do	Of the Methodist Synod.
10	"	MR. RALLY,	do	do
11	"	Rev. J. N. SENDERLING,	do	Delegates from the Methodist Synod.

on the table. (See appendix A.)

Produced to Synod by Rev. Dr. Miller.

I. Resolved, That the reading of the minutes of last year be discontinued.

The Secretary presented a bound volume of minutes as a gift

PAROCHIAL REPORTS.

MINISTERS.

POST OFFICES.

	MINISTERS.	Baptisms		Confirmations.	Admitted from other churches.	No. partaken of the L. Supper.	No. entitled to communion.	No. removed.	No. of deaths of members.	No. of funerals attended.	No. of Sunday Schools.	Teachers.	Children.	Catechumens.	POST OFFICES.
		Congregations.	Infants.												
1	Rev. H. N. Pohlman, D. D.,	1	22	3	7	90	238	22	1	15	1	18	133		Albany, N. Y.
2	" J. C. Duy,	2	31	24	5	200	236		4	24	2	12	120		New Prospect, Bergen county, N. J.
3	" N. W. Goertner,	2	17	11		250			8	20	2	20	100		Red Hook, Dutchess county, N. Y.
4	" P. F. Mayer, D. D.,	1	49	13	4	270	237	2	9	21	2	40	409	19	Philadelphia.
5	" A. Wackerhagen, D. D.,	2	48	4		202	237	2	2	10	1	6	70		Clermont, N. Y.
6	" W. D. Strobel, D. D.,	1	7	26		90	222	1	2	17	1	14	75		Valatie, N. Y.
7	" C. A. Smith,	2	5	4		194	222	1	2	17	2	11			Rhinebeck, Dutchess county, N. Y.
8	" R. Collier,	1	14	4		84	29	1	1		1	11	57		New Hampton, N. J.
9	" G. B. Miller, D. D.,	1	2	21		29			2	5	1	3	24		Hartwick, Otsego county, N. Y.
10	" W. A. Fetter,	4	36	15	4	308		5	1	7	1	24	24		Laicester, Erie county, N. Y.
11	" A. Wetzel,	2	53	23		237		2	3	11	1	24	124		Utica, N. Y.
12	" C. Martin,	1	12	20		160	150		4	23	1	25	350		166 Grand street, New York.
13	" E. Meyer,	1	62	45		120	150	4	1	87	1	5	24		166 Hudson street, Albany.
14	" C. F. E. Stohman,	1	320	39		900	209		7	6	1	25	50		16 Bayard street, New York.
15	" G. J. Kempe,	1	31	5		167	209	4	1	51	1	10	30	18	Boston, Mass.
16	" F. H. Guenther,	1	126	39		769	117		6	4	1	10	37		Buffalo, N. Y.
17	" J. W. Starman,	1	7	6		106	117		3	3	1	2	42		Waldoboro', Me.
18	" F. G. Maschhop,	1	36	6		120	109	1	4	8	1	1	30		Newark, N. J.
19	" J. Mulhauser,	1	24	8		130	109		3	6	1	9	40		Rochester, N. Y.
20	" P. H. Denner,	1	33	16		125	109		3	23	1	8	60		Lyons, Wayne county, N. Y.
21	" W. F. Veil,	1	28	9		288	385	8	3	15	1	16	125	28	Buffalo, N. Y.
22	" H. Wheeler,	1	38	16	2	310	216	5	5	5	1	7	100		Claverack, Columbia county, N. Y.
23	" E. Deyoe,	1	25	8	7	190	216		1	3	4	16			Ghent, Columbia county, N. Y.
24	" G. Neff,	1	34	10	1	40	200	1	2	3	1	16			Philadelphia.
25	" F. W. Schmidt,	3	23	7	1	177	200		2	27	1	9	35	19	West Leyden, Lewis county, N. Y.
26	" L. Muller,	1	172	12		300	235	2	3	5	1	8	40		110 Eldridge street, N. Y.
27	" J. R. Keiser,	2	25	23	1	220	312	9	3	6	1				New Germantown, N. J.
28	" W. Sharts,	2	56	12	1	185	312	9	3						Waddington, St. Lawrence county, N. Y.
29	" C. Richenberg,	1	20	5	11	127	140	8							Syracuse, N. Y.
	Total,	41	1366	417	54	6391	2799	74	81	402	32	258	2066	84	

MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS.

Dr. Mayer reports as connected with his church the following institutions:—Missionary, Tract, and Book Society, Sunday-school Missionary Society, Society for the Relief of the Poor, and Benevolent Sewing Society. \$1,000 have been paid in aid of Domestic and Foreign Missions of the Philadelphia Bible Society, of students of divinity, of churches, and Sunday-schools, and of indigent persons; exclusive of our own members in necessitous circumstances. Upwards of \$5,000 have recently been subscribed and paid for lessening the debt of our church.

Rev. G. J. Kempe says: Last fall a new church edifice was erected, 36 by 50 feet. It is a frame building, simple and neat, and was dedicated on Christmas last. The cost was \$1,500 which has been paid by the congregation, with some assistance from other churches.

Rev. P. H. Dennler states: That, though his congregation has many difficulties to contend with, it is in a very flourishing condition.

Rev. G. Neff remarks: My church is yet in its infancy, but is beginning to assume an interesting aspect. The Sunday-school is exerting a silent but an abiding influence in the community. Through the divine blessing the church during the past year has more than doubled itself, and the number of hearers is rapidly increasing. Upwards of \$300 have been collected for various purposes.

Rev. J. R. Keiser mentions, that his congregations, during the year, contributed very liberally to the Education Society, the Home Missionary Society, and various other benevolent objects.

Rev. W. A. Fetter says: The corner stone of a new frame church 78 feet by 36, has been laid in the village of Lancaster, Erie Co., and that the building is so far advanced that the congregation now meets in it for the purpose of divine worship.

Rev. E. Meyer observes: On the whole the congregation is improving in christian knowledge and practice—our church debt is gradually diminishing, and we trust one of the most serious obstacles to our prosperity as a church.

Rev. Dr. Strobel states: That the congregation at Valatie, has recently purchased a parsonage.

The brethren generally report Missionary Societies, Education Societies, Prayer-meetings, and various other institutions for the promotion of christian knowledge and piety.

Contributions for the Synodical, Missionary and Education, Foreign Mission, and Widow's funds, were then received by the Treasurer.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

CONTRIBUTORS.	Synodical.	Missionary and Education.	Foreign Missionary.	Widow's Fund.
Albany, (Ebenezer church,) - - - -	\$10 00	\$40 00	\$43 37	
Rev. H. N. Pohlman, D. D., - - - -				\$3 00
Ramapo and Saddle River, - - - -	5 00	10 00	12 00	
Rhinebeck, (St. Peter's church,) - - - -	5 00	20 00		
Rev. N. W. Goertner, - - - -				3 00
Dr. P. F. Mayer, - - - -				3 00
Germantown and Livingston, - - - -	3 00	6 00		5 56
Dr. Wackerhagen, - - - -				3 00
Valatie, - - - -	1 00	8 00		
Rev. W. D. Strobel, D. D., - - - -				3 00
Rhinebeck (3rd church,) and Wurtemberg, - - - -	10 00			
Wurtemberg, - - - -		15 00		
Rev. C. A. Smith, - - - -				3 00
Hartwick, (for Buffalo mission,) - - - -		15 00		
Rev. G. B. Miller, D. D., - - - -	2 00			3 00
Rev. W. A. Fetter's churches, - - - -	6 68 ³ / ₄			
Verona, - - - -	1 00	2 00		
Rev. A. Wetzel, - - - -				3 00
St. James' church, New York, - - - -	10 00			
Boston, - - - -	3 00			
St. John's, Buffalo, - - - -	10 00			
Rev. F. H. Guenther, - - - -				3 00
Rochester,* - - - -	3 00		17 00	
Rev. J. Mulhauser, - - - -				3 00
Lyons, - - - -	1 00			
Rev. P. H. Dennler, - - - -				3 00
Ghent, - - - -	5 00			
New Germantown, N. J., - - - -	5 00	66 80		
Rev. F. W. Schmidt, - - - -	1 00			
Rev. G. Neff, - - - -	2 00			3 00
Rev. C. Richenberg, - - - -				3 00
Spruce Run, - - - -	1 21			
Rev. R. Collier, - - - -				3 00
Collection at Synod, - - - -	11 00			
Canajoharie, - - - -	2 00			
Rev. W. A. Fetter, - - - -				5 00
Rev. F. G. Maschhop, - - - -				50 00
Mr. Sturky, of Newark, - - - -		10 00		
Rev. F. H. Guenther,† - - - -	10 00			3 00
Rev. C. Richenberg,† - - - -				3 00
Rev. J. Muhlhauser,† - - - -	2 00		8 00	5 00

*\$11 of the above, was paid during the year and accounted for by the Treasurer in this year's report.

†These monies were paid to Rev. H. N. Pohlman, D. D., during the year, but not acknowledged until now, in the minutes of Synod.

The President appointed Rev. Dr. Strobel, Mr. B. Schultz, and R. Williams, a committee to audit the Treasurer's accounts.

III. *Resolved*, That during the meeting of this Ministerium, the sessions in the morning shall open at 9 o'clock and close at 12; and in the afternoon, open at 3 o'clock and close at 5.

IV. *Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to receive the applications of individuals who may wish to dispose of stock of the Book Company, in accordance with the XLII. resolution of the General Synod.

Committee.—Rev. Messrs. N. W. Goertner, C. Martin, and W. D. Strobel, D. D.

V. *Resolved*, That we adjourn to 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Prayer by Rev. P. F. Mayer, D. D.

FIRST MINISTERIAL SESSION.

MONDAY, 12 o'clock, *M.*

Prayer by Dr. Wackerhagen.

I. *Resolved*, That licentiate F. W. Schmidt, be ordained to-morrow evening in the church, according to resolution VI. of the third Ministerial session of last year.

Rev. W. D. Strobel, presented Mr. John Rugan as a candidate for license.

II. *Resolved*, That candidate J. Rugan, be examined by a committee of seven, in the presence of the Ministerium.

Committee.—Drs. Miller, Wackerhagen, Mayer, Strobel, and Rev. Messrs. Stohlman, Martin, and Guenther.

III. *Resolved*, That the candidate be examined this afternoon at 5 o'clock.

IV. *Resolved*, That the application of Rev. L. Muller, for ordination, be referred to the examining committee.

Adjourned. Prayer by brother Stohlman.

SECOND SYNODICAL SESSION.

MONDAY, 3 o'clock, *P. M.*

Opened with prayer by Rev. G. B. Miller, D. D.

The minutes of the first session were read and adopted.

The delegation to the General Synod, reported through Rev. C. A. Smith, as follows:

REPORT.

As the minutes of the General Synod are published and will soon be in the hands of all the members of this Ministerium, it will be unnecessary to enter into a full and detailed account of all the proceedings of that body. We shall, therefore, mention only a few items of interest, some of which may perhaps require the action of this Synod.

The thirteenth Convention of the General Synod met in the city of Philadelphia on the 16th of May, and was composed of 61 members, there being only 1 clerical and 10 lay-delegates absent. The General Synod comprises at present, 13 district Synods, viz.: The Synods of Maryland, West Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Hartwick, New York, Virginia, the West, Ohio, Alleghany, Western Virginia, East Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Miami.

Among the most important proceedings of the General Synod, we notice the reception of a delegate from the Triennial General Assembly of the Presbyterian church, who appeared for the purpose of proposing terms of correspondence between these two ecclesiastical bodies. We call the attention of this Synod to the terms of correspondence reported by the committee appointed for that purpose, and adopted unanimously. They are as follows:

Resolved, 1. That this General Synod cordially accede to the invitation of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church, and do hereby enter into a fraternal correspondence with the church which it represents.

Resolved, 2. That a delegate be appointed to attend the next meeting of the General Assembly in Philadelphia, on the third Thursday of May, 1846, and that this correspondence be regularly maintained.

Resolved, 3. That this Synod cordially approve of the practice which has hitherto prevailed in our churches and those of the Presbyterian churches, of mutually inviting the ministry to sit as advisory members in ecclesiastical bodies; of inviting communicants in good standing in either church to partake of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper in the other, and of the dismissal of church members at their own request, from the churches of the one to those of the other denomination.

Resolved, 4. That it be recommended to our district Synods, that ministers in good standing, desiring to pass from one of these bodies to the other, shall upon application to the proper body, receive a certificate of ministerial standing."

We regard this movement as one of the cheering signs of the times, indicating as it does, that those sectarian jealousies which have so long disturbed the peace and weakened the energies of the church are beginning to disappear, and holding out the promise of a final concentration of effort on the part of all evangelical believers, for the overthrow of error and the dissemination of fundamental truth—and we trust that this Synod will endorse the action of the General Synod by the unanimous adoption of this report.

The following resolution passed by the General Synod refers to another matter of interest to this Ministerium:

Resolved, That as soon as the revised copies of the Liturgy can be finished one copy be furnished to the Secretary of each of the district Synods, and that said Synods be recommended to examine the same and instruct their delegates to the General Synod as to the course they are to pursue."

The Liturgical committee advised a thorough revision of the Liturgy as prepared by them, in order to improve its literary character and secure unity of style, and at their suggestion the following propositions were adopted:

"1. That the original forms of the New York Liturgy, with such improvements as are suggested by the translation, be substituted for the latter—that the first form of the New York confessions be inserted in the place of the second, and that other approved forms of the New York Liturgy be inserted where thought desirable; provided, the size of the work be not too much increased thereby, to which end only one form shall be given for the less usual festival services.

2. That the Liturgical committee be continued, and that each member of it be allowed to revise his work, after which the whole shall be given into the hands of Prof. H. I. Smith, of Hartwick Seminary, for general revisal, in which he shall have reference to the changes that have been or may be suggested by Synods or individuals, but shall make no important changes of forms or of ideas that are not unanimously approved by the committee."

Prof. Smith has undertaken the work assigned him, and the Liturgy as revised by him will probably be finished during the coming winter, so as to leave the press next spring or summer.

The Executive Committee of the Foreign Missionary Society has been removed to the North, and is now composed of members of the New York and Hartwick Synods. We feel as if this mark of confidence should awaken in our churches a more active missionary spirit, and we regard it as a distinct call of Providence to be more energetic and self-denying in our efforts for the salvation of the world.

We would state in this connexion, that a Domestic Missionary Society was formed with special reference to the wants of the church in the West—and in regard to both these objects the plan of systematic benevolence was recommended to the churches by the committee on the state of the church—particularly the Cent-a-week plan, by which if all our members were to contribute, the sum of about \$75,000 would be realized annually.

The Committee of Foreign Correspondence was also revived and "directed to correspond with the several Missionary Societies in Germany, and to request them to direct their Missionaries to the United States, to apply on their arrival in this country to said committee for instructions, respecting the most suitable fields of labor, with the understanding that they spend at least one year in some one of the Theological Seminaries connected with the General Synod previous to their employment as pastors.

A day of humiliation and prayer was appointed by the unanimous adoption of the following resolution:

"Resolved, That we earnestly recommend to all our pastors, the appointment of the first Monday in January annually, as one of special humiliation and prayer, on which they humble themselves with their people before Almighty God, penitently confessing sin, and earnestly imploring the outpouring of the spirit on our churches, our institutions, our Foreign Mission and the whole world."

The Rev. Mr. Eastman, addressed the Synod in behalf of the American Tract Society, and resolutions were adopted approving of the operations of that society and recommending its publications to the members of our churches.

A resolution was also passed approving of "the efforts of the American Bible Society to circulate the scriptures in different languages throughout the world, and their generous efforts to supply our German population."

Rev. Dr. Baird, Secretary of the Foreign Evangelical Society, addressed the Synod respecting the state of religion in some of the Roman Catholic countries of Europe, whereupon a resolution was passed recommending the Foreign Evangelical Society to all our Lutheran churches.

We refer to these proceedings of the General Synod in regard to the Tract, Bible, and Evangelical Associations, because we think it highly important that the designs and operations of these societies should be presented to the notice of each particular Synod.

From the report of the Book Company, it appears that the affairs of that institution are prosperous, and that the directors have been enabled to contribute something to the funds of some of our benevolent associations.

From the report of the Committee on the State of the Church, it appears that the state of the church is highly prosperous. New congregations have been formed, new church edifices erected. Within the bounds of 13 Synods, 10,632 were admitted to church communion by confirmation and certificate, and 1,479 by adult baptism in a single year, exhibiting a more flourishing state of religion than during the two preceeding years, when so many churches in our own and other denominations were visited with special and extraordinary manifestations of the divine presence.

These are the chief proceedings of the General Synod which claim the attention of this body. The details of business may be seen on reference to the printed minutes.

All which is respectfully submitted,

C. A. SMITH,
H. N. POHLMAN,
N. W. GOERTNER,
W. D. STROBEL,
BENJAMIN SCHULTZ,
P. W. ENGS.

VI. Resolved, That the above report be adopted.

Dr. Mayer here stated that the Pennsylvania Synod appointed a delegate and an alternate to this Ministerium, but that on account of sickness in their families, both of them were prevented from attending the present session of this body.

The committee appointed to report on sundry German papers, submitted the following statement :

1. That brother Kempe, of Boston, expresses the hope that his congregation, known to this Ministerium as "the United Lutheran and Reformed congregation of Boston," may continue to be regarded as connected with this body, notwithstanding a rumor current in Boston, that a resolution to that effect, passed by this Synod at their last meeting would be rescinded.

2. That the German congregation at Clarence, desire to have the minutes of our proceedings printed in the German no less than in the English language.

3. The German congregation at Eden, request to be supplied with a pastor in place of the Rev. W. Veil.

A. WACKERHAGEN,
A. WETZEL,
W. A. FETTER,

Committee.

VII. Resolved, That the above report be accepted.

VIII. *Resolved*, That a synopsis of the proceedings of this meeting be furnished by the Secretary for publication in the *Hirtenstimme*, and that the editor be requested to print 200 extra copies for the use of our German congregations; provided, the whole expense does not exceed \$10.

IX. *Resolved*, That the third article of the report be referred to the Missionary committee.

The whole report was then on motion adopted.

X. *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Ministerium be presented to Drs. Mayer and Miller, for the interesting sermons preached by them before this body, and that they be earnestly requested to furnish copies for publication.

XI. *Resolved*, That the President's report be taken up and acted upon.

XII. *Resolved*, 1. That so much of the President's report as relates to the license of candidates, be referred to the Ministerium.

2. *Resolved*, That so much of it as relates to the Rev. G. Saul, be referred as above.

3. *Resolved*, That so much of it as relates to Rev. J. Starman, be referred to the Trustees of the Widow's fund.

4. *Resolved*, That so much of it as relates to brother Sharts, together with his letter, be referred to the Missionary board.

5. *Resolved*, That the documents relating to the church in Newark, be referred to a committee of three.

Committee.—Dr. Mayer, F. H. Guenther, and A. Wetzel.

XIII. *Resolved*, That the President's report be adopted and appended to our printed minutes. (See appendix A.)

After Synod had heard some interesting statements from brother Sternberg, in reference to the aspect of things in Buffalo, it was on motion,

XIV. *Resolved*, That the Missionary committee of this Ministerium be authorized to pledge themselves to brother Sternberg, for the sum of \$250 for the present Synodical year, in support of the English Lutheran Mission at Buffalo.

Adjourned.

Prayer by brother Guenther.

SECOND MINISTERIAL SESSION.

MONDAY, 5 o'clock, P. M.

Prayer by Rev. C. Martin.

Minutes of the last session read and adopted.

The Ministerium resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

Rev. Dr. Miller took the chair, and the examination of Mr. Ruggan commenced.

After some time was spent in the examination of the candidate, the committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again, when it was

V. *Resolved*, That the examination be resumed at the next meeting of the Ministerium.

Adjourned. Prayer by brother Wetzel.

This evening, divine service was held in the church, when brother Strobel preached from Rom. ix. 2.

THIRD SYNODICAL SESSION.

TUESDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock.

Opened with prayer by brother Senderling.

The minutes of the last session were read and adopted.

XV. *Resolved*, That when this Synod adjourns, it will adjourn to meet at New York, in St. James' church, on the Saturday preceding the first Sabbath in September, 1846.XVI. *Resolved*, That when we adjourn the thanks of this Ministerium be tendered to the congregation for their kindness and hospitality since we have been amongst them.

Mr. Hundertmark, a commissioner from the German congregation in Canajoharie, presented certain papers for the consideration of Synod, which were referred to a committee of three, viz.: Rev. E. Meyer, Dr. Miller, and C. Richenberg.

The committee on the Treasurer's accounts presented their report. Adopted. (See appendix B.)

Mr. Poeschka, from Prussia, was introduced to Synod as a student of divinity.

XVII. *Resolved*, That as we have frequent fraternal intercourse with all the Synods connected with the General Synod, we do not deem it necessary to send delegates to any of the Synods so connected except the Hartwick Synod.

XVIII. *Resolved*, That the committee on the Hartwick Seminary, and the delegates to the Hartwick and Pennsylvania Synods, be allowed one dollar per day during the time of their actual service.

XIX. *Resolved*, That Rev. P. F. Mayer, be our delegate to the Pennsylvania Synod, and that Rev. F. G. Maschhop, be his alternate.

XX. *Resolved*, That Rev. H. Wheeler, be our delegate to the Hartwick Synod, and that Rev. G. B. Miller, be his alternate.

P. W. Engs, trustee of the Widow's fund, appeared and was invited to a seat as an advisory member.

The committee on the minutes of sister Synods reported as follows :

Your committee have examined the minutes of the different Synods placed in their hands, and now report as follows :

1. *The Hartwick Synod* met at Schaghticoke, June, 1845. Officers—Dr. Lintner, President ; Rev. David Eyster, Secretary ; and Rev. Martin J. Stover, Treasurer.—We find in these proceedings a resolution inviting the New York Synod to co-operate with the Hartwick Synod in the immediate establishment of an English Evangelical Lutheran Mission in the city of Buffalo. This matter was attended to yesterday.—There is nothing further deserving the notice of this Synod, save that our brethren of the Hartwick Synod continue to be zealously engaged in advancing the kingdom of Christ.

2. *The Synod of Pennsylvania* held its ninety-eighth annual convention on Trinity Sunday, 1845, at Reading, Pa. It was composed of 70 members. The officers of last year were re-elected. The history of the Evangelical Lutheran church in America, about to be published by the Rev. E. L. Hazelius, D. D., was recommended to the attention and patronage of the churches. The Pennsylvania Synod expresses the wish that the fraternal connection existing between the New York Ministerium and themselves may still continue. A committee was appointed to make arrangements for the Centenary celebration of the first annual convention of Synod in 1847. The Rev. C. R. Demme, D. D., was appointed a delegate to this Synod. The following resolution was proposed and laid over for consideration till the next meeting of Synod: "*Resolved*, That every candidate in connection with this Ministerium present annually, besides his journal and sermons, a dissertation on a certain given thesis." Your committee would recommend this resolution to the consideration of this body. The Synod of Pennsylvania refers with just regret to the death of Rev. H. A. Muhlenberg.

3. *The East Pennsylvania Synod* met November 7th, 1844, in the English Lutheran church, Reading, Pa. Rev. J. P. Shindel, President ; Rev. J. L. Schock, Secretary ; and Rev. J. Ruthrauff, Treasurer.

We notice in these minutes the cordial reception of our delegate to that body, and an acknowledgment of the reception of our minutes. This Synod has formed a pastoral association, which meets annually during the sessions of Synod. It has also resolved upon the establishment of "a permanent fund for the support of disabled ministers, and widows and children of deceased ministers." We find also a resolution appointing a delegate to this body, and another approving and commending the efforts

which are now being made throughout our country to secure the better observance of the Lord's day.

This Synod is actively engaged in the work of Home Missions within its bounds. It supports *eight* young men, who are in different stages of preparation for the gospel ministry. Their zeal in the Master's work is commendable.

4. *The Synod of Maryland* met at Middletown, Frederick county, Md., October 18th, 1844. Rev. S. W. Harkey, President; Rev. F. W. Conrad, Secretary; and Rev. J. P. Cline, Treasurer.

This Synod has 13 beneficiaries under its charge, and on the funds of their Education Society. The ministers present pledged themselves to raise for beneficiary education during the ensuing year, \$1,465.

Some good resolutions were adopted, and much important business transacted, which cannot well be noticed in detail in a report like this.

5. *Synod of Virginia*. This Synod convened at Shepherdstown, Va., Thursday, May 8th, 1845. Officers—Rev. J. B. Davis, President; Rev. L. Eichelberger, Secretary; and Rev. T. Miller, Treasurer. Our minutes are noticed favorably; and, in particular, they refer with approbation to our resolutions in reference to church discipline, and the pastoral letter addressed to the churches on the subject of long continued absence from the communion, and commend the same subject to the ministers and churches within their bounds.

In the report on the state of religion, it is observed, that there "is satisfactory evidence, that in the bounds of Synod, the cause of truth and piety is progressive, and that we have abundant encouragement to persevere in the work, knowing that Christ is with us, that his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

This Synod is gradually increasing in efficiency, as well as members; and the brethren appear to be diligently employed in cultivating the vineyard of the Lord.

6. *Synod of North Carolina* assembled at St. Paul's church, Orange county, N. C., May 2nd, 1845. Eight ministers and seven lay-representatives were present. The officers are, Rev. J. D. Scheck, President; Rev. S. Rothrock, Secretary; D. Barringer, Esq., Treasurer. The President says, in his annual report, that from the brethren, generally, he has received interesting information respecting the success of their labors, and the prosperous state of religion in their respective charges.

7. *Synod of South Carolina*. Their last meeting took place at Lexington Court House, S. C. Rev. Dr. Bachman, President; Rev. W. Berly, Recording Secretary; Dr. Hazellus, Corresponding Secretary; and Col. W. Caughman, Treasurer. Nothing concerning our Synod is noticed in their minutes. This Synod manifests a commendable zeal in prosecuting their ordinary and missionary labors.

8. *The Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the West* held its tenth annual session at Fort Wayne, Indiana, in October, 1844. The officers are—Rev. F. Springer, President; Rev. A. A. Trimper, Secretary; and Rev. F. Wynecken, Treasurer.

This Synod numbers 19 ordained ministers and 1 licentiates. These brethren have a wide and interesting field to engage their attention. May their labors be crowned with the most abundant success.

We notice that the names of Mr. McChesney and Geo. Surface, have been stricken from their list of members.

Our minutes are not noticed although they were sent to them.

9. *Synod of Miami*. We have here the proceedings of a convention, and of the first and second sessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Miami, convened at Xenia, Ohio, October 16th, 1844,—and at Dayton, Ohio, April 19th, 1845. The

officers are—Rev. C. F. Schaeffer, President; Rev. D. Rosenmiller, Secretary; Rev. J. Surface, Treasurer. This Synod was only organized, October 16th, 1844. It is hoped, that under the guidance and blessing of Providence, they will give an animating impulse to religion and education in the West. They are now actively co-operating with several of the neighboring Synods in founding and endowing Wittenberg College, at Springfield, Ohio.

The above are the only minutes which have been sent to our Synod, or, at least, the only ones received. In view of this fact, your committee proposed the following resolution:

Resolved, That our thanks are due to those Synods which have forwarded to us copies of their proceedings; and that we hereby request all acknowledged Lutheran Synods regularly to send us their minutes, for which they shall receive ours in return.

Your committee have thought proper to append to this report, a general statistical view of the Evangelical Lutheran church in the United States.

			Ministers.	Cong.	Commun'ts.
1.	Synod of Pennsylvania, embodying in May, 1845,		68	224	32,274
2.	do New York, do Sept. 1845,		33	36	6,300
3.	do North Carolina, do May, 1845,		11	21	2,093
4.	do Maryland, do Oct. 1844,		30	62	6,664
5.	do South Carolina, do Nov. 1844,		30	40	2,784
6.	do W. Pennsylvania, do Sept. 1844,		43	128	14,053
7.	do Virginia, do May, 1845,		20	40	2,415
8.	Hartwick Synod, do June, 1845,		18	25	3,187
9.	Eastern Synod of Ohio, do May, 1844,		22	80	8,000
10.	Western Synod of Ohio, do May, 1844,		40	130	13,000
11.	Eng. Synod of Ohio, united with the Joint Synod of that State, do May, 1844,		9	35	5,000
12.	English Synod of Ohio, not so connected, do Sept. 1844,		46	140	6,504
13.	Synod of the West, do Oct. 1844,		27	60	3,657
14.	East Pennsylvania Synod, do Oct. 1844,		23	52	5,207
15.	Alleghany Synod, do Sept. 1844,		16	69	6,811
16.	Synod of Western Virginia, do May, 1844,		7	17	1,044
17.	do Michigan, do June, 1844,		4	7	500
18.	do Miami, do April, 1845,		17	36	1,923
19.	do Indiana, do Oct. 1843,		13	30	2,000
20.	do Pittsburg, do June, 1845,		15	45	2,500
			492	1277	125,916

Respectfully submitted, by

JAMES R. KEISER,
CHARLES MARTIN,
C. F. E. STOHLMAN,
A. WETZEL,
F. H. GUENTHER,
B. SHULTZ,
JOSEPH SMITH.

Accepted and adopted.

Report of the Committee on Hartwick Seminary.

Only one member of the committee on Hartwick Seminary was present at the late meeting of the Board of Trustees.

It affords him pleasure to say that the examination of the students, both in the classical and theological departments, was entirely satisfactory. Forty-five classical and six theological students have been in attendance within the past year. It has long been the wish of your committee to see the theological department of Hartwick Seminary placed upon a better footing. They consider it important to the prosperity and usefulness of the institution that facilities should be afforded to theological students, equal to those enjoyed at any one of our Theological Seminaries in this country, and this cannot be effected unless two theological professors are supported, whose whole time shall be devoted to theological instruction.

At the late meeting of the Board of Trustees this view was again urged upon the attention of the Board, and they have made a formal and distinct proposition which calls for the action of this Synod. They say that if the churches connected with our Synods in this State, will raise the sum of \$5,000, to be added to the permanent fund, they will support two theological professors, and also provide for the classical department. We have reason to believe that the Hartwick Synod will enter into this plan, and that they will raise at least half the required amount—and the committee hope that the New York Synod will go so far as to approve of the plan, and resolve to adopt some measures which will test its feasibility. Your committee are strong in the belief that the requisite amount can be raised if proper efforts are made, and they are willing to undertake any duty which it is possible for them to perform in connection with this important matter, and which the Synod may see fit to impose upon them.

All which is respectfully submitted,

C. A. SMITH,
C. MARTIN,
N. W. GOERTNER,

Committee.

Accepted and adopted.

XXI. Resolved, That the committee on the Hartwick Seminary be authorized to devise and execute the most feasible plan to raise the sum of \$2,500, towards the support of another professorship in the Hartwick Seminary.

XXII. Resolved, That this Ministerium express their deep displeasure at the conduct of such men, as, under the guise of ministers of the gospel, endeavor to crowd into existing congregations—make themselves a party—and create trouble and sorrow to minister and people, and sorely wound the cause of true religion.

XXIII. Resolved, That the subscribers to the Widow's fund, be allowed the first half hour of this afternoon's session to hold a meeting.

Adjourned. Prayer by brother Strobel.

THIRD MINISTERIAL SESSION.

TUESDAY, 12 o'clock, *M.*

Opened with prayer by brother Richenberg.

VI. Resolved, That a standing committee be appointed by ballot, whose duty it shall be in the recess of Synod, to receive all applications from candidates for admission into this Ministerium, to examine them as to their qualifications and character, and report to the President; who shall upon their recommendation, provide them with the proper credentials for the exercise of the ministerial office.

Synod then proceeded to the election of said committee, and upon counting the ballots, the following brethren were found to be chosen:

Rev. Messrs. A. Wackerhagen, D. D., C. F. E. Stohlman, W. D. Strobel, D. D., C. A. Smith, and C. Martin.

Adjourned. Prayer by brother Maschhop.

FOURTH SYNODICAL SESSION.

TUESDAY, 3 o'clock, *P. M.*

Prayer by brother Keyser.

The minutes of the last session were read and adopted.

Leave of absence was asked by brother Deyoe, and Dr. Mayer, and granted.

The committee on the affairs of the church at Newark, reported:

The committee to whom were referred sundry documents from members of the Evangelical Lutheran congregation of St. John, Newark, respectfully report,

That they have attended to the duties of their appointment, and held a conference with the delegate from said congregation, and the representative of the parties aggrieved, which they trust will issue in the removal of existing difficulties.

With a view to this result they offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, 1. That the congregation of St. John, Newark, be desired to rescind the obnoxious article in their church rules, of which complaint has been made to this Ministerium, because unscriptural, excessively rigorous, and calculated to produce most injurious effects.

Resolved, 2. That the suspension of seven members of said congregation, whose names have been communicated to the committee, ought immediately to be revoked by a special resolution of the church council.

Resolved, 3. That it be recommended to the council of said church, by a committee of three, to invite each of the seven suspended members in a cordial and friendly manner to reconcile themselves to the congregation.

Resolved, 4. That it be recommended to all parties that the before mentioned act of reconciliation take place in a public church meeting, agreeably to the mode point-

ed out in the accompanying exposition of the views of the Ministerium, and the motives by which those views are enforced, which exposition with the resolutions herein presented, shall be transmitted to the congregation by the President.

P. F. MAYER,
F. H. GUENTHER,
A. WETZEL,
Committee.

The report was adopted.

The subscribers to the Widow's fund now held a meeting, N. W. Goertner in the chair.

The Secretary offered a report which was adopted. (See appendix C.)

The committee on the affairs of the German church at Canajoharie, made a report containing the following resolutions, which were adopted:

Resolved, 1. That the present low state of our funds constrain us reluctantly to decline the application for pecuniary aid, but that we cordially commend their case to the individual liberality of our Lutheran brethren.

Resolved, 2. That this Ministerium most earnestly disapprove of, and remonstrate against the joint use of the same house of worship by Universalists and Lutherans; and while we regret the necessity which has driven our friends to so questionable an expedient, we urge them henceforth to have no fellowship with errorists who openly deny the doctrine of future punishment.

Resolved, 3. That their request for a pastor be referred to the Executive Committee of the Missionary Board, who shall seek to supply them, provided always as the only condition on which this Ministerium will recognize and aid them, that they renounce all connection with Universalists and other errorists.

E. MEYER,
G. B. MILLER,
C. RICHENBERG,
Committee.

MEASURES.

XXIV. *Resolved, 1.* That we heartily disapprove of the controversy concerning old and new measures, as it has been carried on in our church for the last few years, as tending to weaken the strength and influence of the church, by interrupting the harmonious and combined action of her ministers and members, and "cutting the link of brotherhood," which should bind us together in one harmonious mass.

Resolved, 2. That while we condemn the two extremes into which the present age seems prone to run—a superstitious veneration for antiquity on the one hand, and a fondness for novelty on the other, we regard it as the true policy of the Lutheran church for

each pastor to adopt such measures in his own charge, as he conscientiously believes to be consistent with the Bible, and likely to prove useful.

The above resolutions were adopted unanimously.

XXV. *Resolved*, That 250 copies of our minutes be printed in the English language.

No further business claiming the attention of Synod, it was

XXVI. *Resolved*, That we now adjourn to meet again in the city of New York, according to resolution XV.

The brethren united in singing a hymn of praise. The President offered thanks to God for his blessing upon us as a church, and fervently supplicated the continuance of the Divine favor, and we all felt how good and pleasant it was for brethren to dwell together in unity.

FOURTH MINISTERIAL SESSION.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, 5 o'clock, P. M.

Session opened with prayer by the Secretary.

This whole session was occupied in considering the case of Mr. Poeschka.

Adjourned. Prayer by brother Fetter.

TUESDAY EVENING, September 9th, 1845.

ORDINATION SERVICE.

After singing by the choir, and prayer by one of the brethren, the President delivered an impressive charge. The candidate, F. W. Schmidt, then approached the altar, and after answering the constitutional questions in the affirmative, he was solemnly ordained to the work of the ministry, by the imposition of the hands of brethren and prayer. After this the members of Synod united in celebrating the Holy Supper of the Lord.

The exercises closed with singing and the usual benediction.

FIFTH MINISTERIAL SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Prayer by Rev. C. A. Smith.

The minutes of the former session were read and adopted.

Rev. L. Schwartz, of the German Reformed church, was introduced and invited to a seat as an advisory member.

VII. *Resolved*, That the attention of the brethren Guenther, Veil, and Fetter, be directed to the case of Mr. Poeschka, and he is hereby recommended to their care and friendship.

The Ministerium then resolved itself into a committee of the whole for the purpose of resuming the examination of Mr. Rugan.

After an extended examination in Greek, dogmatics, exegesis, homiletics, &c., the committee reported that they were satisfied with his abilities, when it was

VIII. *Resolved*, That Mr. John Rugan be licensed as a minister of the gospel.

The candidate then appeared, and after answering the usual questions in the affirmative, he was received as a member of this Ministerium, and authorized to preach the gospel and perform all other ministerial acts within the compass of a candidate's license.

IX. *Resolved*, That the license of brother L. Müller, be renewed.

X. *Resolved*, That every candidate in connection with this Ministerium, present annually, besides his journal and sermons, a dissertation on such subject as shall be determined by the Ministerium.

XI. *Resolved*, That candidate Rugan prepare an essay on the following thesis, viz.: "The place for tradition in the interpretation of scripture."

XII. *Resolved*, That candidate Müller write an essay on the following theme, viz.: "The ways of Providence in preparing the world for the Reformation in the 16th century."

XIII. *Resolved*, That each applicant for license shall hereafter be required to preach in the presence of the Ministerium.

The brethren then engaged in an extended and interesting colloquium on *pastoral duties and difficulties*—and thus, the labors of the session were appropriately and delightfully closed.

Adjourned. Prayer by brother Goertner..

I certify that the foregoing is a faithful record of the proceedings of the fiftieth Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of the State of New York, and adjacent States and countries.

JACOB C. DUY, *Secretary*.

APPENDIX.

(A.)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

BELoved BRETHREN:

Permit me to congratulate you on the favorable circumstances under which we meet to celebrate our semi-centennial anniversary. Looking back upon our past history, we are enabled, with adoring gratitude and praise, to recognize the hand of God every where directing and controlling the events which have befallen us, and making all things whether prosperous or adverse, tend to the ultimate good of our Zion. Fifty years ago, like Jacob when he passed with his staff over Jordan, we were comparatively alone; and lo, now we have become two bands. Nor has our increase been in numerical strength merely. Every year has borne testimony to the increase of vital piety, and enlarged views of christian duty among us; sinners have been saved from death, God has been glorified, and the Evangelical Lutheran church in this, as well as in other lands, has proved that her walls are salvation, and her gates praise. Surely these things demand the song of thanksgiving and the sacrifice of praise, and encourage us to hope that He who hath been with us hitherto, will continue to own our efforts for the upbuilding of his Zion, and bless us with the choicest blessings of his grace. May God enable us to press forward in the good old way, continuing in Luther's faith, and trusting in Luther's God.

At almost every session of our Ministerium for the past six years, we have been constrained in sadness to ask: "*The fathers, where are they?*" Nor does our present meeting prove an exception. Death has again been busy in our ranks, and taken away another of those aged veterans who have long borne the heat and burden of the day, and fought manfully, in times of darkness and trial, for our Lutheran Zion. The Rev. John George Frederick Uhl, entered into his rest on the 27th of June, in the eighty-fifth year of his age. He had labored long and faithfully among the people of his charge, and it was only after thirty-three years laborious service, that admonished by the infirmities of age, he was induced to retire from the active duties of the ministry. He was buried at Churchtown, among the people whom he loved, after appropriate solemnities conducted by the Rev. Drs. Wackerhagen and Strobel; many aged disciples to whom he had broken the bread of life gathered round to express their sorrow at his death, and to weep at the grave of their spiritual father.

The other events of the year are of very little interest, and may be comprised in short compass.

From our candidate, the Rev. F. W. Schmidt, I have received the most encouraging accounts during the past year. He is laboring faithfully in his congregations at West Leyden and La Fargeville, and according to the sixth resolution of the last Ministerial session will expect ordination at our present meeting.

Our other candidate, the Rev. Lewis Müller, has I believe, been engaged in gathering a congregation, and organizing a church in the city of New York, composed in part of the members of his former charge. I have received no communications from him during the year.

Two students of divinity, Mr. Pöschka, of Prussia, and Mr. Lewis Scharwz, from Rentz, in the principality of Lippe, have applied for license during the recess. They were strongly recommended by the Rev. C. F. E. Stohlman, and their testimonials from Germany, as far as I was enabled to judge were of the highest character; but the Constitution is express in its provision, requiring an examination before a license can be given, and though this provision has been dispensed with on some former occasions, I thought it my duty to return to first principles, and therefore declined giving them a license. The power intrusted to the President by the Constitution, of licensing candidates ad interim, is provisional in its character, and cannot be exercised without the concurrence of the Secretary; nor are either of them authorized to act, unless they are convinced by an examination of the applicant that he has the qualifications required. In the applications referred to, such an examination could not be held, as there was no medium of communication, the candidates being unacquainted with the English language, and the President unhappily ignorant of the German. The rejection of these applicants may have operated injuriously to them, and perhaps to the interests of the church, and therefore it may be well to provide for such cases in future. I would suggest the appointment by ballot of a Standing Committee of Examination, whose duty it shall be to receive all applications from candidates for admission into the Ministerium, to examine them as to their qualifications and character, and report to the President; who shall, upon their recommendation, provide them with the proper credentials for the exercise of the ministerial office.

In January last, I received a communication from the Rev. George Saul, informing me that he had resigned his office as pastor of the German Lutheran congregation of Canajoharie; and on the 28th of August, I was advised by the same brother, that "in accordance with the ninth paragraph of the fifth chapter of the Constitution, having relinquished the Ministerial office with a design to pursue some other profession, he resigns his seat as a member of this Ministerium."

The Rev. Reuben Dederick, having removed within the bounds of the Hartwick Synod, and taken charge of the congregations at Woodstock and Saugerties, applied in May last, for a dismission with a view of connecting himself with that Synod. His application was complied with; and we hope he will meet with the blessing of the Master, in entering again upon the active duties of the ministry in his new field of labor.

On the 29th of September, the new church erected by the German Lutheran congregation at Utica, under the pastoral care of the Rev. A. Wetzel, was set apart to the worship of Almighty God. The brethren Richenberg, Saul and Schmidt, were present, and took part with the pastor in the exercises.

On Christmas day, the new German church at Boston, under the pastoral care of the Rev. George Kempe, was dedicated to the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, under the name of "the United Lutheran and Reformed church." The dedicatory services were performed and the sermon preached by the pastor. He was assisted on the occasion by two of the brethren of the Congregational church.

Our aged brother Starman, has forwarded his parochial report, and requests to be excused for his non-attendance, on account of the distance of his residence, and the infirmities of old age. He states that his congregation contemplates an union with a Congregational church in the neighborhood, and the calling of an assistant pastor. He desires also that application be made in his behalf to the trustees of the fund for the relief of disabled clergymen. This part of his letter is earnestly commended to the consideration of the trustees of that fund.

From brother Shartz, who desires to be excused for his non-attendance on account of the distance, I have received, together with the usual parochial report, a very interesting account of the state of the Lutheran church in Canada. There is, in his immediate vicinity, a good opening for a Missionary from our Synod, and it is desirable on many considerations that the station should be occupied without delay. His letter is referred to the attention of the Missionary committee.

Brother Kempe, of Boston, has also forwarded his parochial report, and a communication in the German language, which is herewith presented.

In November last, I received a petition from some of the members of the Evangelical Lutheran German church of St. John, in Newark, N. J., setting forth some difficulties which had arisen in that congregation in consequence of the alledged improper exercise of discipline by the pastor and church council, and requesting my mediation. I complied with their request, but regret to state that notwithstanding my efforts to restore peace and harmony, by communicating with both parties on the spot and giving them my councils and prayers, I did not succeed in effecting a reconciliation. The petition and accompanying documents, is at their request, presented for the consideration of Synod.

According to appointment, I attended the late meeting of the Hartwick Synod, as a delegate from this body. I was received with christian affection and love, and was highly pleased with the interesting exercises of the occasion. This Synod desires the co-operation of the Ministerium of New York, in the establishment of an English mission at Buffalo. I have had occasion during the last month to examine the ground, and have had some conversation with brother Guenther, in relation to the matter; and am fully persuaded not only that the plan is feasible, but that on every consideration it demands the earnest and efficient co-operation of this Synod. I would recommend that the Missionary appointed by the Hartwick Synod, the Rev. Levi Sternberg, be permitted at this meeting to express his views on this subject, and that measures be taken for the immediate establishment of a mission at Buffalo.

The report of the delegates to the General Synod will be presented by one of the delegation, so that it will not be necessary for me to enlarge upon this topic. I would merely state, that the transfer of the direction of the Foreign Mission operations to the Northern Synods, imposes an additional obligation on this body to do what it can to sustain, enlarge and permanently establish our infant mission among the Telegoos.

A resolution passed at the late meeting of the Trustees of our Theological Institution, will be presented by the chairman of the committee on Hartwick Seminary, and demands the earnest consideration of this body.

And now, brethren, I pray God that his blessing may rest upon us during our present meeting. May we be mutually strengthened by our intercourse together, devote ourselves anew to the service of God in the gospel of his Son, and be faithful unto death, not counting our lives dear unto ourselves, so that we may finish our course with joy, and the ministry which we have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God, and at all times and under all circumstances, may we be enabled to rejoice that our labor is not in vain in the Lord.

HENRY N. POHLMAN.

Albany, September 8th, 1845.

(B.)

The Committee on the Treasurer's accounts, report that they have examined and found the same correct, leaving a balance due the Education and Missionary fund of \$22 37½, and a balance due by the Synodical fund to Treasurer, of \$32 98. In addition to this, there is still to be paid out of funds now coming into the Treasury, \$28 98 for the printing of last year's minutes, and other bills audited to the amount of \$29 70. Total claims upon Synodical Treasury \$91 66, to which there ought to be \$28 for printing our present minutes in English and \$10 in the German. The funds we have, will prove altogether inadequate to these claims, being only \$109 88 to meet a claim of \$130.

It seems proper to the committee that the work of retrenchment should commence somewhere, and they would call the attention of the Ministerium to the matter.

Could not the expenses of the delegate to the East Pennsylvania Synod be dispensed with, especially as that body is represented with us in the General Synod.

Could not the expenses of the committee on Hartwick Seminary be reduced, by making the committee smaller in number or by reducing their allowance. Make the committee one or allow each of the committee only a dollar per day during the time of active service. And we would recommend proximity to the place of meeting in the choice of delegates to the Pennsylvania and Hartwick Synod, together with a per diem allowance for their expenses.

The adoption of these recommendations would be the means of lessening our expenses, and of saving us from running into a hopeless debt.

W. D. STROBEL,
B. SCHULTZ.

(C.)

The Trustees of the Widow's Fund respectfully report to the subscribers that during the past year, that funds has accumulated so as to amount at the present time to \$2,341 79,—consisting of the following:

George Goertner's bonds secured by mortgage, - - -	\$2,000 00
Five shares in Bowery Fire Insurance Company, - - -	125 00
Cash in the hands of the Treasurer subject to interest, -	216 79

\$2,341 79

By an estimate of the Treasurer, it appears that the sum now in his hands, together with interest to be received, added to the amounts due from H. Ludwig on account of Hymn Book, and the probable receipts from the strict legacy and subscribers—will enable him to invest \$500 more in bond and mortgage on the first of May next, when the entire fund will amount to over \$2,600.

The term of service of Rev. A. Wackerhagen and Mr. P. W. Engs, expires at this time, and it will be necessary to fill their places.

The Trustees are gratified in being able to present so favorable a state of the affairs of this fund, and trust that the great promise of attaining the intended object of this institution will call forth the support which it deserves.

The attention of subscribers is called to the payment of their annual dues, while they are reminded that if they fail to pay up for five years in succession, their rights are forfeited.

On behalf of the Trustees,

P. W. ENGS, Secretary.

Albany, September 9th, 1845.

